

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A canning structure comprising:  
a ceramic honeycomb structure ~~before carrying~~ not loaded with a catalyst[,];  
a metal case having two opposing fully open ends;  
[,] and  
a holding member;  
the ceramic honeycomb structure being held in the metal case;  
wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure is fixed beforehand within the metal case by the holding member.
2. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.10 mm.
3. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.08 mm.

4. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a stuffing structure.

5. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a tourniquet structure.

6. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is a non-expanding ceramic fiber mat.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a ceramic catalytic converter comprising the steps of:

producing the ceramic honeycomb structure fixed beforehand within the metal case by the holding member by putting and fixing a ceramic honeycomb structure before carrying a catalyst in a metal case by means of a holding member,

loading the ceramic honeycomb structure with a catalyst, and

mounting a flange and a corn portion on the canning structure carrying the catalyst.

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8. (New) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat, the ceramic fiber having a diameter of 2 to 6  $\mu\text{m}$ .